



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands  
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## Apostle Islands News Release

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### Manitou Island Closed Due To Bear Activity

Manitou Island – one of the 21 islands comprising northern Wisconsin’s Apostle Islands National Lakeshore – has been temporarily closed to the public due to black bear activity. A resident bear has been acting in an increasingly worrisome fashion in recent days, displaying behavior that is either overly-aggressive, or overly-friendly.

“We don’t enjoy closing places to our visitors,” said Apostle Islands National Lakeshore superintendent Bob Krumenaker, “especially since we had just re-opened the fish camp to public tours again this summer. This bear has gotten too bold for comfort, though. Until we can learn more about this bear, we decided it was best to give it some space.”

In recent days, a volunteer staying at the Manitou Island Fish Camp was backed into an outhouse by a bear, only to have the bear lie down in front of the outhouse door, preventing the volunteer from opening it. Visitors have also been reporting close encounters with the bear, and it may have gotten some human food on one occasion.

NPS staff will monitor the bear, and will attempt to deter it from staying in areas frequented by people. As soon as it appears the bear will stay away from visitor use areas, the island will be reopened. In the past the NPS trapped problem bears and moved them to the mainland. That practice has been rejected in recent years because it either failed (bears often returned to the island) or because it simply made a problem bear someone else’s problem.

Manitou Island is home to an historic fish camp, two miles of hiking trails, and a solitary campsite. It is not considered a heavily visited site, typically drawing 2,000 to 3,000 visitor days per year.

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